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# Indiana State Department of Health

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## Vaccine E-Letter # 265

1/11/2008

[www.statehealth.in.gov/programs/immunization.htm](http://www.statehealth.in.gov/programs/immunization.htm)

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### **Indiana's Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program: Eligibility**

The Indiana Immunization Program uses multiple federal and state funding sources to purchase and distribute state-provided vaccine in Indiana. The largest single source of state-provided vaccine is made available through the federal Vaccines for Children Program.

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program provides federally funded vaccines to eligible children and adolescents presenting at any of the more than 900 active public and private VFC provider sites within the state of Indiana. VFC providers are required to screen patients at all immunization encounters for VFC eligibility and administer VFC-purchased vaccine only to children and adolescents who are 18 years and younger (*<19 years of age*) and who meet VFC eligibility criteria. Provider screening to determine a child's eligibility to receive vaccines through the VFC Program must take place with each immunization visit prior to the child receiving the vaccines.

#### Eligibility:

Children and adolescents eligible for VFC vaccines are those from birth through 18 years of age (less than 19 years of age) who are:

1. Medicaid eligible
2. Uninsured (A child who has no health insurance coverage)
3. American Indian or, Alaska Native

4. Underinsured\* (only at certain types of providers - see note below)
    - a. A child who has commercial (private) health insurance, but the coverage does not include vaccines.
    - b. A child whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (VFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only) or a child whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount (once that coverage amount is reached, the child is categorized as underinsured).
- \* NOTE: Underinsured children are eligible to receive VFC vaccine only through a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Clinic (RHC), or at local health departments that have established delegation of authority through an FQHC or RHC. In order to avoid missed opportunities to immunize all eligible children, ISDH has encouraged all Indiana county health departments to establish formal delegation of authority agreements which allow underinsured children presenting at county health departments to receive vaccines under the VFC Program.

For a current list of vaccines covered under the Vaccines for Children Program go to <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/downloads/resolutions/0606vaccines.pdf>

### **Vaccine Eligibility Policy On-Line:**

The Indiana State Department of Health Immunization Program Vaccine Eligibility Policy is now available on-line. This policy clearly explains the differences between the Vaccines for Children (VFC), Section 317, and State Purchased vaccine programs. The eligibility for persons to receive vaccines under these programs differs significantly and VFC providers need a clear understanding of this policy.

For the complete VFC and 317 Immunization Program Policies, go to <http://www.CHIRP.in.gov>.

### **VFC Questions and Answers:**

#### Question:

If a child presents for vaccines and does not have health insurance, but the parents plan to insure the child, would this child be eligible for VFC vaccine?

#### Answer:

If a child has no health insurance on the day she presents at the office for immunizations, the child would be eligible because she is uninsured. VFC eligibility screening must take place with each visit prior to giving the vaccination even though the patient screening form only needs to be updated when the eligibility status of the child changes.

#### Question:

If a child is eligible for insurance and the parents choose not to insure the child, would this child be eligible for VFC?

#### Answer:

If a child has no health insurance on the day that he presents to the office for immunizations, regardless of the reason, the child would be VFC eligible because he is uninsured.

## **Vaccines For Children (VFC) Vaccine Ordering Update**

Because of the MERCK Hib vaccine recall, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is limiting the amount of Hib vaccine available for our providers. We will be using ActHib (produced by sanofi pastuer) until further notice. Large orders may be reduced until the vaccine supply stabilizes.

Please remember for VFC and 317 Vaccines:

- Use only order forms with your order cycle printed in the upper right hand corner.
- Order only when it is allowed for your cycle.
- Order between the dates of the 25th through the 5th (If you are ordering for the month of February then submit your order from January 25, through February 5.)
- Order only what you need for your cycle.

Interim recommendations for using Hib vaccines can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5650a4.htm>.

## **New Look for MERCK's Direct-Ship Vaccine Shipping Containers**

Beginning January 1, 2008, MERCK began shipping (direct-ship) VARIVAX, PROQUAD and ZOSTAVAX vaccines in shipping containers with color-coded tops to assist providers in distinguishing between privately purchased vaccines and publicly funded vaccines. Currently, the Indiana State Immunization Program only provides VARIVAX vaccine.

MERCK's direct-ship containers will now be color-coded with a green colored top if the vaccine is privately purchased.

If the vaccine is provided by the Indiana State Department of Health's Immunization Program the vaccine will be shipped in a container with a red colored top and will be clearly labeled with the phrase "**Publicly Funded Vaccine**".

In addition, the shipping label was redesigned to designate that the shipment is **Publicly Funded Vaccine** and to allow more room for shipping instructions. The shipping containers themselves have not changed.

## **Children and Hoosiers Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP) Informational Sessions**

NEW THIS YEAR! Children and Hoosiers Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP) Informational Sessions are designed for NON-CHIRP users who are interested in learning more about the benefits of using CHIRP in their facility or practice. The agenda includes A) What is CHIRP; B) Benefits of using CHIRP; C) CHIRP's role in State Funded vaccine; and D) How to enroll in CHIRP.

January 31, 2008  
1:00pm – 2:30pm EST  
Mary Margaret Hospital – Ripley County  
321 Mitchell Avenue  
Batesville, IN 47006

## **CHIRP User Group Meeting**

This session is designed for CURRENT CHIRP users who are interested in learning about upcoming changes or who have specific questions regarding CHIRP usage. The agenda includes A) System Status; B) Current Issues; C) Upcoming Changes; D) Training – State Funded vaccine management and eligibility; E) Monitoring Data Quality; and F) Questions/Answers

*Call (888) 227-4439 or go to the CHIRP.IN.GOV to register.*

January 31, 2008

9:30AM – 11:30 EST

Mary Margaret Hospital – Ripley County

321 Mitchell Avenue

Batesville, IN 47006

## **CHIRP TIP**

To keep CHIRP up-to-date remember to enter all vaccinations given at your facility including those given using private vaccine stock and those given to adults. CHIRP is a lifetime immunization registry, so vaccinations for children and adults should be included.

## **FAX or e-mail?**

Our FAX list for the Vaccine E-Letter has grown very large and it now takes more than a day to send the E-Letter out by FAX. If you currently receive the E-Letter by FAX and could possibly receive it by e-mail instead, we would like to change your subscription from a FAX subscription to an e-mail subscription.

You can change your subscription to an e-mail subscription by sending an e-mail to Robert Bruce Scott, Health Education Coordinator, at [rbscott@ISDH.IN.gov](mailto:rbscott@ISDH.IN.gov). Be sure to include the e-mail address that you want the E-Letter sent to and the FAX number that we will be able to remove from our FAX list.

Your assistance is very much appreciated!

## **Contact Us**

For questions and comments, please contact the ISDH Immunization Program at:  
[Immunize@ISDH.IN.gov](mailto:Immunize@ISDH.IN.gov) or 800-701-0704.